

**Amendments to the specification:**

Please replace the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph on page 26 beginning **“‘Imbalanced pH range/ imbalanced proton homeostasis’...”** and ending **“...is a local or systemic pH value other than 7.36 to 7.44.”** with the following paragraph in which the hyperlink has been removed.

**“Imbalanced pH range/ imbalanced proton homeostasis”** - The range of normal arterial pH (7.36 to 7.44) encompasses approximately two standard deviations of the normal population; anything outside this range is considered abnormal. Clinically, the "safe" range for pH is approximately 7.30 to 7.52; within this range, pH per se is not usually life-threatening. A pH outside this range is potentially life-threatening because of altered enzymatic activity and enhanced myocardial irritability, and direct steps should be taken to return the pH to normal. Thus, "imbalanced pH/imbalanced proton homeostasis" means in the context of this patent application is a local or systemic pH value other than 7.36 to 7.44.